UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/49/671
16 November 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-ninth session
Agenda item 35

LAW OF THE SEA

Letter dated 15 November 1994 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia on the occasion of the entry into force of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the beginning of the work of the International Seabed Authority.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda item 35, and have it transmitted to the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority in Kingston, Jamaica.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIĆ
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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ANNEX

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Yugoslavia on the occasion of the entry into force of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the beginning of the work of the International Seabed Authority

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, as a Member State, welcomes the entry into force of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the beginning of the work of the International Seabed Authority.

Yugoslavia, as a Mediterranean and a maritime country, took an active and constructive part in the elaboration of the Convention on the Law of the Sea. It has consistently and principally sought for solutions which would promote international cooperation in this field on the basis of equality and respect for the sovereignty and integrity of the States parties and has been a staunch advocate of peaceful settlement of disputes and progress of the developing countries. Yugoslavia was one of the first countries which signed (1982) and ratified (1986) the Convention on the Law of the Sea.

We would like to use this opportunity to underline that the Convention on the Law of the Sea represents a unique system of international treaties laying down a comprehensive legal framework for various aspects of international cooperation in exploiting world seas and oceans. At the same time, the Convention renders a significant contribution to the codification and development of contemporary international law, particularly in the field of scientific research, transfer of technology, environment protection and the affirmation and elaboration of the concept of the "common heritage of mankind".

Welcoming the beginning of the work of the International Seabed Authority, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia expresses its hope that, through its activities in the field of the exploration and exploitation of the seabed and ocean floor, the Authority will contribute to general progress and advancement, in particular in developing countries.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is deeply convinced that the entry into force of the Convention on the Law of the Sea will usher in a new era of advanced global, equitable international maritime cooperation and stands ready to render its full contribution.